

ST. CHARLES FIRE DEPARTMENT



CHIEF'S COLUMN BY CHIEF ALAN SCHULLO

National Poison Prevention Week

National Poison Prevention Week Warns: Most Child Poisonings Result from Common Household Products. Every 7 minutes, a child arrives at an emergency room due to a suspected poisoning.

About 78,000 children under five years old visited U.S. hospital emergency rooms due to unintentional poisonings in 2003 -about one every seven minutes, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reported today. Most of these poisonings included products commonly found in the home. The data were released by CPSC, the National Poison Prevention Week Council, and the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) at a news conference to kick-off National Poison Prevention Week. CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton said that more than 9 of every 10 suspected poison exposures occur at home with readily available household products. About 30 children die from poisonings each year, down from 450 in the 1960s.

"While our nation has made great progress in reducing poison-related fatalities, we must build on our commitment to protect children from unintentional poisonings," urged Stratton.

Parents can do their part, he noted, by keeping harmful products and medicines out of children's reach, storing items in their original containers, and properly using child-resistant packaging.

According to AAPCC, poison centers nationwide received more than one million calls about poison exposures involving children five years and younger in 2003. Among the potentially toxic household products involved with calls to the poison centers were: Personal care products, including baby oil and mouthwash containing ethanol; Cleaning substances, including drain openers and oven cleaners; Over-the-counter pain relievers - including ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and as-

pirin - and cough and cold medicines; Hydrocarbons, such as lamp oil and furniture polish; and Adult-strength vitamins and supplements containing iron.

Rose Ann Soloway, chair of the Poison Prevention Week Council, noted that when repackaged at home in non-child-resistant containers, medicines and potentially hazardous household products become even more accessible and dangerous for young children.

"Grandparents who keep their prescription drugs in non-child-resistant pill boxes should be especially aware of this risk," said Soloway. "Child-resistant packaging doesn't work if it's not used properly."

Many poisoning incidents occur while the products are in use and a parent or caregiver steps away or is distracted for a moment. Children can get hold of a product and swallow it during the short time it takes to answer a phone call or doorbell.

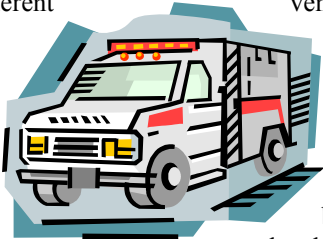
"The alarming number of poison center calls and emergency department visits proves that children act fast, and so do poisons," said Kathy Wruk, president of AAPCC. "Parents must act fast as well. If your child swallows or handles a potentially dangerous product, immediately call the poison center hotline at **1-800-222-1222**. Your call will be answered by experts at your local poison center."

To get a free packet of poison prevention publications, write to "Poison Prevention Packet," CPSC, Washington, DC 20207, or visit www.poisonprevention.org. For additional information about poison prevention and poison centers, visit www.1-800-222-1222.info.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION BY ASST. CHIEF JOE SCHELSTREET

The budget hearing has been set for Saturday April 16. This hearing is one of the final steps in the long budgeting process. The budget, along with the business plan, forms the outline for all projects and initiatives to be completed in the next year. The budget also outlines proposed projects for the next three consecutive years as part of the planning process. The Fire Department has presented several initiatives that are designed to improve the current level of services.

The budget for the Tri-City Ambulance Association (TCA) has also been completed and is awaiting approval by the board. The TCA board is made up of representatives from each of the six member agencies and they are next scheduled to meet on March 18. In addition to budget issues, the board is also working through the process of choosing a consultant to perform the next study on the association itself. Three different



vendors were selected from the original respondents to the RFP and they were invited to make presentations. Of the three presenters, Emergency Services Consulting Inc. was selected as the successful bidder. Work will begin

shortly and process is expected to take approximately 120 days.

Work on Century Station is near completion and planning for the move is progressing smoothly. Orchestrating this maneuver will be no easy feat as operations will shut down on Friday April 22 in their old location and re-open on Monday April 25 in the new location. City functions will be impacted on Saturday as the servers are moved to Century Station. Much coordination will have to take place, but the added work will be well worth the effort.

There has been much discussion as of late regarding the inordinate amount of spam that is coming through the e-mail system. Some department members haven't received any of these annoyances, but some are receiving significant amounts. Besides being tiresome, these e-mails may contain viruses or may ask for private information. The department is working with IS to try and remedy the problem and clean any computers that may already be infected by spyware or other programs that can cause problems. Anyone experiencing a problem is advised to notify the IS help line and report the issue.



IS Helpline—x3059

FIRE PREVENTION BY ASST. CHIEF DAVID MANSFIELD

In February the Fire Prevention Bureau continued its busy schedule of reviewing plans, conducting occupancy inspections, and attending plan submittal meetings.

Plan reviews completed included sprinkler plans for facilities such as Route 31 Partners, 3815 E. Main Street, Lando Building, School District #303 Maintenance Building, Kid's Hope, BBK Sports, DuKane Building, Detelish Auto, Campton Hills Spray Park, 1st American Title, Zimmerman Ford, and Campton Hills Concessions. Fire alarm plan reviews were completed for Calavo Growers, Piemonte Cadillac, Home Hardware, 3815 E. Main Street, BBK Sports, Benchmark Bank, A.I.D. Home, Harris Bank, Zimmerman Ford, and Campton Hills Spray Park. Five preliminary plans were reviewed, along with many revisions and tenant finishout plans. New building plans for Remington Glen Townhomes were reviewed.

Along with the busy plan review schedule, off-site meetings were held with: Design Organization/Berglund Construction for the Century Station Project, Piemonte Cadillac, Perfect Plastics, Christ Community Church, and St. Pat's School on Crane Road. A Chapter 34 review was completed for Batavia

Enterprises at 1010 Cedar Avenue.

Fire hydrant flow tests were conducted at First Street and W. Main Street, and Third Street and W. Main. Underground fire flushes were performed at Pheasant Run, Jabblab, and Mades-Johnstone School.

Occupancy inspections continue with a total of 20 inspections conducted in the month of February.

The Fire Prevention Bureau attended training for elevator operations and chimney fire tactics.

Lt. Craig Hanson is attending an extensive Plan Review Class in Elk Grove Village.

Lt. Brian Byrne conducted fire safety talks at Bethlehem Pre-School and St. Pat's Pre-School.

The Fire Prevention Division is exploring the potential of the installation of new exit assistance technology into the newly renovated Century Station.

FROM THE OPERATIONS DIVISION BY ASST. CHIEF SCOTT SWANSON

The St. Charles Fire Department responded to 307 incidents during the month of February. This was an unusually low number of incidents, well below the department average and the lowest monthly total in several years. Despite this anomaly, the department responded to a larger than normal quantity of fires and general alarms. Firefighters effectively mitigated several fires, ranging from fires in industrial buildings, to appliance fires at residential houses, and vehicle fires during the month.

There were five general alarms in February. These included two fires in industrial buildings, which occurred the same evening, once again reinforcing the importance of fire alarm systems. Late in the evening members of the St. Charles Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at 3625 Illinois Avenue. Upon arrival, the first due engine company reported a fire in an industrial cooking oven and vent stack. The incident was upgraded to a St. Charles general alarm. The firefighters from Truck 101 proceeded to the roof to check conditions and prevent the fire from spreading to the roof area while the engine company firefighters effectively contained and extinguished the fire.

Another fire, less than five hours later, occurred at 3575 Stern Avenue. The incident also originated as a fire alarm. Upon the arrival of the fire units, smoke was visible emerging from the building. The incident was upgraded to a St. Charles general alarm as firefighters entered the smoke-filled building in a search for the fire. Once the fire was located, the firefighters went to work to extinguish the flames. The building was then ventilated to remove the enormous amount of smoke present from the fire.

The installation of a proper sprinkler system also proved its value. Several sprinkler heads were activated during the blaze and contained the fire from spreading throughout the building until such time as the firefighters could arrive and finish the extinguishment of the flames.

There were several additional incidents that involved fires that were capably handled by the first alarm companies. Among these events were a dryer fire and an oven fire, each in a residential home. In each of these incidents, the efficient actions by the firefighters on the scene protected the structure and personal belongings from a tragic loss.

The response to vehicle accidents continued to be a regular department function during the month. The most serious accident occurred in the early morning hours of Sunday February 6th. At that time the department responded to a single vehicle accident on Corron Road near Clydesdale Court. The firefighters utilized rescue tools from Squad 101 to perform extrication allowing the removal of the driver from the mangled vehicle. Simultaneously, the paramedics performed medical treatment for the injured driver during and after his removal from the wreckage. The patient was then flown to the hospital by Air Angels helicopter.



Stern Avenue Fire



Corron Road Accident.



Air Angels at Corron Road Accident.

FROM SUPPORT SERVICES BY ASST. CHIEF STEVE FULLER



February was a short month with a number of active projects underway. Engine 101 was off front line due to a rear leaf spring found to be broken after it was noticed during its regular service interval. Fire Department Mechanic Mike Mustard evaluated the brakes and completely replaced the rear components, with this conclusion the truck was placed into full service again.

All personnel responsible for maintaining the apparatus worked very hard to accomplish the setting up of the reserve ladder truck. Now that all the required tools, and equipment are installed, we are assured the truck will meet the NFPA standards for emergency responses. Those persons have done a good job and we commend them for meeting the deadline.

Station Maintenance is on going, and thanks goes out to the buildings and grounds crew for installing the new ceiling fans at Station # 2. Many of the original units failed to operate, which was no surprise, since they are approaching twenty years of age. They were able to secure the new fans for a very reasonable price which made it worth replacing all of the them now in this budget year.

Also painting improvements at Station #2 was completed by the Buildings and Grounds staff, and it's pleasant to see that the building is coming around. With a few other remaining items yet in the plans, it should be ready to operate and serve the community for another twenty years.



EMA NOTES BY DEREK PIEC, EMA COORDINATOR



Preparation...
is essential

Several EMA activities have taken place in the last few weeks. On Tuesday March 1, 2005, the agency participated in the annual Statewide Tornado Drill. The Outdoor Warning Sirens were activated for a full duration test so residents would hear the units for an extended amount of time, just as if a real tornado warning had been issued. The City's Tone Alert Receivers were also activated with an announcement for the drill.



During the test, a citizen reported a problem with the Indiana Street siren. The siren was not emitting at full sound wattage, as this is an older electronic siren powered by six individual 200-watt amplified speaker units. Due to approaching severe weather season, the contractor was asked to replace the unit as soon as possible. During the week of March 14, the Indiana Street siren and the Public Works Compound siren will be replaced. There will be an additional siren added at Karl Madsen Drive and Route

38. The cost of this unit is being shared by the City of Geneva, as it will provide coverage into Geneva's jurisdictional boundaries. The new siren units are all mechanical, run on an AC/DC power system, and will activate even if a power outage were to occur during a tornado warning. The new units also provide more coverage over a broad area.

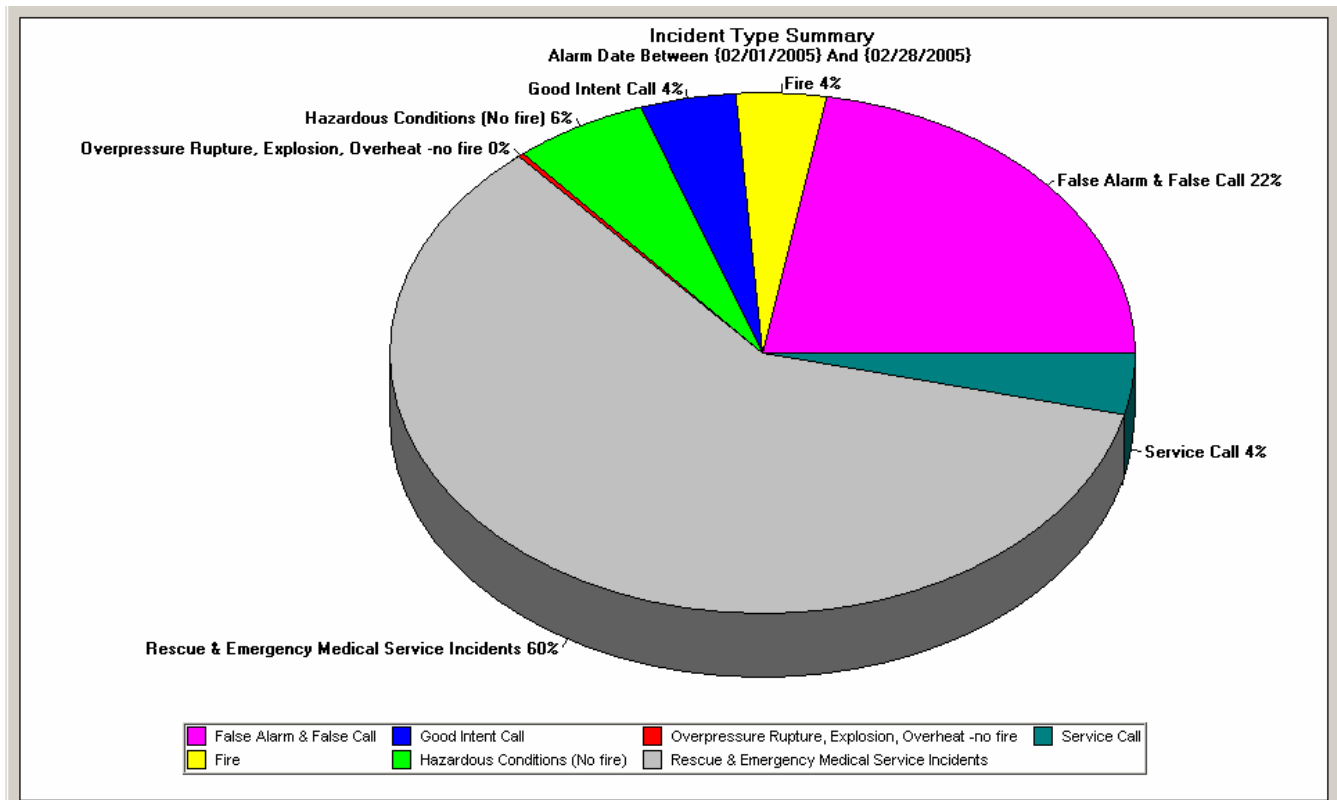


As a reminder, Kane County is covered by 3 NOAA Weather/All-Hazards Radio Frequencies: 162.500 MHz – Crystal Lake, 162.425 MHz – Lockport, 162.400 MHz – Plano.

A big hats off to John Moriarty for his missionary work in February 2005 in the Philippines. Welcome Back!

Last but not least: The Coordinator is developing new Standard Operational Guidelines for EMA. Be prepared to add new and improved SOGs to your personal SOG Book.

INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT



QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEY BY PARAMEDIC ROBB LUMSDEN

35 responses were received back from 116 surveys sent for February. The overall average was 4.85. Total calls for the month equaled 189. Following are the questions included on the survey. They were scored 1—5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent:



Did the paramedics respond to your call in a prompt manner?
4.89

Were the paramedic personnel courteous and respectful?
4.94

Did the paramedics explain the medical treatment and procedures to you?
4.77

Did the paramedics answer the questions and concerns you had?
4.80

Do you feel the paramedic crew was knowledgeable of the procedures that they performed?
4.83

Overall how would you rate the paramedics who treated you?
4.89

Was the ambulance neat and clean?
4.83

Were you satisfied with the medical treatment that you received?
4.89

TRAINING BY CAPTAIN LEO VESELING

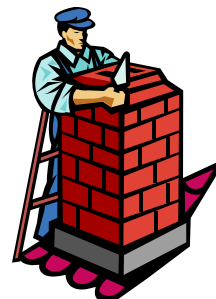
Training of the Paid on Call staff as well as the Full Time staff continued during the month of February. Training is conducted for the safety and education of all personnel in accordance to standards set forth by NFPA, OSHA and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Firefighters from the St. Charles Fire Department again exceeded all of the minimum training requirements.

During the month, several special drills were conducted as part of and in addition to regular daily training. Firefighters were required to attend annual recertification training on CPR, AED and Bloodborne Pathogens. This training is for all personnel and conducted in house by firefighters certified to teach these classes.



Specialized training for elevator equipment and rescue was conducted for all shifts by representatives of an elevator service agency. Firefighters were instructed on elevator types, operations and emergency procedures. Participants reviewed elevators within the St. Charles fire protection area.

Improper chimney installation and lack of cleaning result in numerous chimney and structure fires each year. The training department located and invited a chimney expert to give a class to each of the three shifts. This training was quite detailed and taught firefighters everything from proper installation to the most efficient use of fireplaces and wood burning appliances. Fire control and extinguishment methods were reviewed for various types of chimney/ flue fires.



As a final special drill this month, a representative of the Kane County Health Department visited and conducted training on the State and National stockpiles of medications to be distributed in the event of a biological weapon attack. The training included the medications that are available as well as the uses for them. Also included were the methods for getting the medications out to those in need of it.

Each month paramedic continuing education training is provided by Delnor Hospital personnel. This training allows paramedics to meet system requirements and thus state recertification provisions. Paramedics studied and were tested on "Brain Attack/ Stroke" recognition and treatment protocols.



Confined Space Rescue simulator

The department Technical Rescue Team trained on confined space rescue and equipment used for that type of situation. Firefighters rotated between several rescue stations to demonstrate their competence with equipment used for confined space rescues.

The tactical paramedics (TEMS) trained with the St. Charles Police TRU. Police officers practiced building clearing while TEMS paramedics practiced moving with the team to treat and or remove downed officers and civilians. A local school was used to present various challenges that a large structure can be for both police officers and medical personnel.

(Continued on page 7)

TRAINING CONT'D.

(Continued from page 6)

The total and average training hours for the month remained fairly level with the January training for both Paid on Call and Full Time staff. Paid on Call members accumulated a total of 248.5 hours for the month with an average of 10.16 hours per firefighter.

Full time firefighters accumulated a total of 1498.75 total hours with an average of 34.06 hours per firefighter. Full time personnel train each shift day and many members participate in special teams training sessions that are in addition to the required daily drills.



During February, several firefighters received their state certifications for classes they passed late in 2004. The paperwork for these classes often does not keep up with the test dates. Congratulations to all for a job well done.



Hazardous Materials Awareness:	David Beavers, Matt Byrne, Wayne Maulding, Chad Tinsley
Technical Rescue Awareness:	Chad Tinsley, Wayne Maulding, Matt Byrne
Firefighter II:	Chad Tinsley, Matt Byrne, Wayne Maulding, David Beavers
Rescue Specialist Confined Space:	Scott Swanson, Tom Lindholm, Gerry Schmitz, Guy Gresser
Structural Collapse Operations:	Jeremy Mauthe
Rescue Specialist Trench Operations:	Jeremy Mauthe, Craig Hanson, Guy Gresser
Rescue Specialist Trench Technician:	Craig Hanson

Heartsaver AED Fund

On Thursday, February 17 at 1:00 p.m., Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn launched a fundraising effort to benefit the Heartsaver AED Fund. Governor Rod Blagojevich signed the fund into law on Valentine's Day.

Lieutenant Governor Quinn made the first donation to the Heartsaver AED Fund on that day. The fund will provide 50% matching grants for defibrillator purchases to public schools, public colleges and public park districts.

"Today we celebrate the passage of the Heartsaver AED Fund and look to encourage Illinois citizens to give \$5, \$10, or whatever you can afford, to help save more lives," Quinn said. "Our goal is to make defibrillators as common as fire extinguishers."

Each year, more than 250,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest.

The Lieutenant Governor also honored leaders from across the state for placing automated external defibrillators (AED) in public locations throughout their community. Family members were on hand to talk about how an AED saved their loved one's life. A volunteer trainer also performed an AED demonstration.

Last session, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Colleen O'Sullivan Law requiring defibrillators in schools, indoor park district facilities and physical fitness facilities. The former attorney for the House of Representatives died of heart complications after exercising at a health club facility. All physical fitness facilities are now required to have at least one AED and trained operator starting July 1, 2006.

Lt. Gov. Quinn is accepting donations to the Heartsaver AED Fund at:

Heartsaver AED Fund
IDPH Division of EMS
525 W. Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

For more information about the Heartsaver AED Fund, log on to www.LtGovernor.il.gov/heart



Chief Schullo represented the St. Charles Fire Department at the Heartsaver AED Fund Kick-off, sponsored by Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's office. Our Department was chosen as a representative because of the donations the Department and IAFF Local 3322 have made to St. Charles North High School, St. Charles East High School, St. Patrick's Elementary School, and Tri-City Corps of the Salvation Army.